



Phinney

# THE NEWS.

Vol. XXXVI.

Rangoon, Burma, January, 1923.

No. 1.



## ARRIVALS.

Rev. A. C. Phelps by the Burma on December 17, 1922, returning to the Sgaw Karen mission at Henzada.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Snyder by the Burma on December 17, 1922, returning to the Mission Press.

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## BIRTHS.

At Namkham, December 13, 1922, to Rev. and Mrs. G. A. Sword, a daughter.

At Namkham, January 1, 1923, to Dr. and Mrs. Gordon S. Seagrave, a son.

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## MARRIED.

ROACH-PECK: At Redlands, Cal., Nov. 24, 1922, Rev. E. B. Roach and Miss A. H. Peck.

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## THE BURMAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

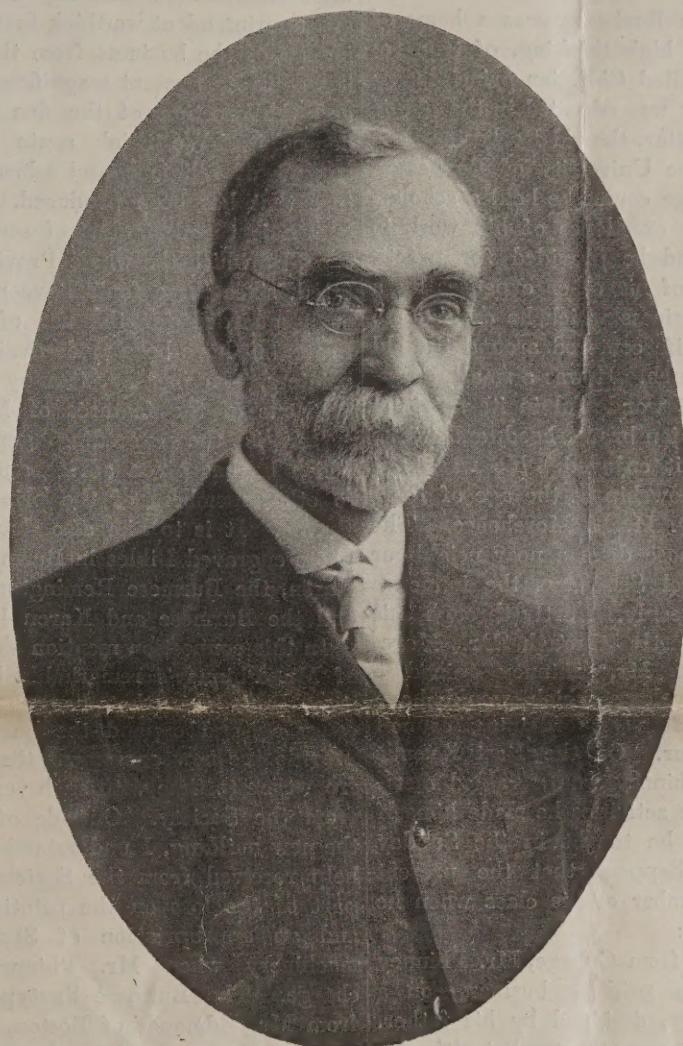
We shall be glad to see all our friends at our closing exercises on Tuesday the 30th instant, at 2-30 p.m. At 1-30 there will be a tea for Burman Christians to which missionaries also are welcome and after the exercises a tea at our home, to which all are cordially invited. We have eleven graduates this year and trust that places may be found for them all. If not a shortage of faith rather than a shortage of money will be the hindrance. If our people will bring the whole tithe into the storehouse not only these men but others also might be sent out. There must be much work and prayer toward this end.

Our Christmas exercises in connection with our Sunday schools for Buddhist children showed marked improvement over former years, indicating that good work has been done by the students having these in charge. Will any who desire students for vacation work kindly let us know. J. McGuire.

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## KAREN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Insein. The Seventy-seventh Anniversary of the Karen Seminary will be held at the Seminary chapel Wednesday, the 31st of January, 1923, at 2-30 P.M. After the exercises in the chapel we shall be delighted to receive our friends at tea, which will be served on the lawn. Those who come will find the train leaving Rangoon at 1-40 will bring them here in good time for the exercises. A cordial invitation is extended to all to come. H. I. MARSHALL.



## Frank Dennison Phinney

Entered into Rest, 15th December, 1922

For forty years Superintendent of the American Baptist Mission Press

Frank Phinney was born in Hornell, N.Y., U.S.A., on the 7th of December, 1857. He was the son of Smith Hollister and Elizabeth Caroline Phinney. When he was about five years of age, the family removed to Rochester, N.Y., and it was there that he grew up, and lived until he heard and answered the call to come to Burma.

Mr. Phinney owed much to heredity. His father, whom I remember as a venerable old man, with the face of a Hebrew prophet, in his accustomed seat in the old East Avenue Baptist Church, was a representative of a type more common in America seventy-five years ago than now. He was part carpenter and cabinet maker, and part preacher. It is recorded of him that in his earlier days

he once built a church, and then preached in it. This incident manifests two traits that were marked in the character of our Mr. Phinney—mechanical genius, and religious zeal. From his father, too, Frank Phinney derived that good old Puritan morality, and that inflexible adherence to principle that made him stand foursquare to all the winds that blew. From his mother he derived that cheery amiability which so endeared him to all of us. His interest in foreign missions was derived from both parents. The father for many years supported a Karen preacher under Dr. Bunker; the mother was for many years the President of the Women's Missionary Circle in the old East Avenue Baptist Church. The

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Phinney home in Rochester was a home of plain living and high thinking, of true refinement and exalted Christian principle.

Frank Phinney was educated in the public schools of Rochester, the old Rochester Free Academy, and the University of Rochester. During his College course he held a scholarship won by the excellence of his work in the Academy, and he provided for practically the whole of his other expenses by a little printing business which he carried on.

His religious life centered around the old East Avenue Church. It was a small, struggling church, but wonderful in its spiritual tone, in its Christian brotherhood, and in the great preaching it enjoyed. He was baptized into its fellowship at the age of fourteen, by the Rev. H. L. Morehouse. The church was in those days a near neighbour of the Theological Seminary, the influence of which it felt deeply. Partly through this influence, and partly through Dr. Morehouse's preaching, Mr. Phinney gained a knowledge of theology which would have enabled him to face an ordaining council without a tremor. Of the East Avenue Church Frank Phinney was a valued member, and in all its activities he made himself felt. Of course he taught in the Sunday School, and it happens that the present writer was a member of his class when he left for Rangoon:

On graduating from College, Mr. Phinney went on with his printing business—on a press, by the way, designed by his father. It began as a foot power press, but ultimately developed into a steam press. The business also developed, until it became a good one, with good prospects ahead of it. Mr. Phinney rather specialized in printing for Colleges, as he was able to turn out work in Latin and Greek.

In 1881 the impending retirement of the Rev. Cephas Bennett made it necessary for the Missionary Union to look out for a successor for him in the superintendency of the Mission Press. Mr. Phinney's rare combination of outstanding abilities as a printer with outstanding qualities as a Christian pointed him out as the man for the place, and he sailed early in 1882, arriving in Rangoon on the 18th of April. On the 1st of October he took over charge as Superintendent, having spent the intervening months in study, and in the overhauling of the stock.

This is not the place for a chronicle of Mr. Phinney's life and work in Burma. A few personal details should receive mention, however. He returned to America five times, arriving in Rangoon the last time on

the 19th of September, 1918. On each of his visits to America he accomplished work of great value to the Mission and the Society. He was married on the 22nd March, 1892, to Miss Lenna A. Smith, who passed away on the 4th May, 1894, and again on the 20th April, 1897, to Miss Jennie E. Wayte.

As Superintendent of the Mission Press, Mr. Phinney did one of the outstanding pieces of mission press work in the world—perhaps the most outstanding. Among his achievements as Superintendent we think first of the building up of the business from the small thing it was to its present magnificent dimensions, and the erection of the fine building that houses it. We think again of the great amount of religious and educational literature that has been produced. Not so well known is the designing of several fonts of type, by which the whole Province has been fitted, since these fonts have not been jealously guarded for the use of the Mission Press, but have been made available to other printers. In passing, it may be remarked that one of the features of Mr. Phinney's career is the exceeding generosity with which he has given advice and information to other members of the printing trade in Burma. It is to him also that we owe the photo-engraved Bibles in Burmese and Sgaw Karen, the Burmese Remington Typewriter, and the Burmese and Karen linotypes.

In this connection mention should be made of Mr. Phinney's remarkable business ability. It is this that has enabled him to carry on and expand the business, and to provide the new equipment that was needed from time to time with such very slight help from the Society. Outside of the cost of the new building, I understand that the only help received from the Society has been a part of the loss on the printing of Bibles, and an appropriation of \$1,000 for new machinery when Mr. Phinney first took charge. The Burmese Linotype was a gift from Mr. Edmonds of Boston, but all other new machinery and equipment has been earned by the Press. Mr. Phinney's business and financial genius was all needed to carry the Press through the Great War and the succeeding return to "normale," and we have reason to be thankful that he was there. Mr. Phinney, as a business man, was highly esteemed by the mercantile community of Rangoon. The Trades Association gave very practical evidence of this esteem when they chose him as their President, for three successive terms, and their representative on the Rangoon Port Trust.

Mr. Phinney's religious life, in Burma, centered about the English Baptist Church, of which he became a member, and later about the Immanuel Baptist Church. He was for many years deacon and Sunday-School superintendent. He deeply loved the Church, and was very regular in attendance at preaching service, at Sunday-School, and at prayer meeting. He was a familiar sight, near the door of the Church on Sunday evenings, with a kindly word of greeting for all. Mr. Phinney's religion was of a practi-

cal rather than a mystical type. He was not a stranger to hours of emotional exaltation, but he refused to accept them as the gauge of his Christianity; he was wary of attaching too much importance to them. To him, religion at bottom consisted in the response of the human will to the will of God. If God requires of man nothing but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with the Lord his God, nobly did Frank D. Phinney meet those requirements.

In theology, Mr. Phinney was a staunch conservative. He took up his position in early life, and from it he did not subsequently vary. He could never appreciate the need, which some of us feel so keenly, of a restatement of theology, which should, while preserving all the essential truth of the Gospel, formulate it in terms adapted to make it appeal to thoughtful men of the present age. With modernist theology he had no patience, but to modernist theologians he was never anything but kind.

In general Mission affairs nobody in his time has been more influential. He was in great demand as a member of important committees. He was one of the nine who were first elected on the Committee of Reference, and he was subsequently re-elected as often as he was eligible, until he declined further service. He has also been an important member of the Property Committee, and of the College Trustees. He was prominent in the Burma Bible and Tract Society, later the Burma branch of the Christian Literature Society, the Rangoon Charitable Society, and other religious and benevolent organizations.

Mr. Phinney was pre-eminently the friend of the whole Mission. He loved us all, and was generous with his sympathy and advice, when we went to him with our difficulties. And he made the Mission Press helpful to us in a number of ways that really we had no right to expect of such a concern.

For many months Mr. Phinney's health had been a ground of anxiety to his friends. He seemed to be wearing out. As Mr. Dyer said to me on the day of his death, "What he really died of is being at the Press at seven every morning for forty years." He put in long hours at the Press, and did a great deal of work and study in the evenings. The functions in connection with the University Convocation seem to have imposed too heavy a strain upon him in his enfeebled condition; at any rate he was taken ill the day after they closed. He passed away on the morning of Friday, the 15th of December, and on the evening of the same day, in the presence of a large and very representative gathering, we laid to rest one of the kindest, one of the truest, one of the most loyal hearts that the history of our Mission has known.

D. C. GILMORE.

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Mr. Phinney is gone. It is an exceedingly sad thought for me. Only once before in the thirty-five years since we first landed in Rangoon has the passing of a fellow missionary meant so much to me. With the one

exception of my dear chum, Carson, no other missionary has been so close and congenial a friend, personal and missionary. Certainly NO other missionary ever rendered me so many, many kindly, helpful, beautiful courtesies. From our very first meeting, when he, boarding our steamer with the Doctor down the river, greeted us and first of all welcomed us to Burma, we were congenial and on both sides conscious of it. I suspect, however, that in our very first association and correspondence, I sometimes grated on his finer sensibilities. Old New England ways had the right of way in our Mission here in those days, when there were few missionaries from so far West as Illinois and Missouri; and my breezy Western criticism of some things Eastern that I considered effete and over-conservative seemed to him a bit raw. He once chided me, saying I'd glide through life easier and with fewer bumps if I'd not stick out my elbows so much. In the whole thirty-five years I never had occasion to chide him at all or to make any serious complaint about anything for which he was responsible. He did like my independence, initiative, and all-a-roundness on the job.....here at least we were absolutely congenial. Once in an address welcoming the in-coming party of new and returning missionaries, he unconsciously expressed that side of himself, as he stressed the main idea of his address, "Doing the Impossible." How many, many times in his missionary career has his independence, his initiative, his all-a-roundness accomplished the impossible with an abundant and far reaching success! And for many years to come our Mission is going to continue to profit by it. I think Mr. Phinney and I have always been practically in unison as to matters of Mission Polity. We may have advocated, or opposed things in a little different way; but we have wanted, or we have deprecated, just about the same things. That was not so unusual in the earlier days of our careers but in these later days there have been many changes and many new alignments. Many who once stood together now find themselves widely separated; but Mr. Phinney and I never got apart on any important matter of what to do or how to do it. Again the undoubtedly wide and disturbing divergencies that have grown up in our Mission in the matters of interpretation and expression of New Testament teaching and of Theological and Denominational loyalty, Mr. Phinney and I have only drawn closer and closer together. He was no mean New Testament scholar, reading the original Greek readily and being familiar with a wide range of the best commentaries. I always enjoyed his leading of our Rangoon Mission Prayer Meeting, for we were always sure of some fresh and devotional interpretation, scholarly, reverent, and absolutely loyal to the letter and context of the passage itself and to the spirit of the whole New Testament. I could count on Mr. Phinney always as one of my most enthusiastic hearers, whenever he was in an

audience to which I was to preach. I remember especially his warmly expressed appreciation of the last sermon I preached in Immanuel Church, a Christmas sermon in which I stressed the Incarnation, the Miraculous Birth, and the God-with-us ideas as the really important ideas of Christmas-tide.

Of course through all these years Mr. Phinney has been the real "Head of the Mission" here in Burma, though no one would ever have been more ready than I to refute the idea that we had a "Head" here. As Mission Attorney, he was in legal control of all property and all business of the Mission; and he was the only one through whom any one could deal safely and finally with or for the Mission. As Mission Treasurer, he held our funds and dealt us our doles. He arranged our passages, managed our landings and sailings. He handled all our shipping. And in all these things I ever found him prompt, efficient, accurate, helpfully suggestive, kindly courteous; never once was he "bossy" or impatient; never once had he mistakes to correct or failures to appologize for. He constantly gave of his own time, his ability, and his energy just to be helpful, yet always without any show of officialism and as if it were all only a part of his regular duties. I very much doubt whether any concern ever had so real and so efficient a "Head" and yet so little realized that they had a "Head" at all.

For somebody to appeal to, by everybody, in any and every situation, Mr. Phinney was the most helpful man I ever knew. In my earlier days, some of us younger men had a slogan—"If you dont know, ask Phinney." Consciously or unconsciously nearly everybody in the Mission has had that same slogan, for forty years. He was always ready and generally able to give personal assistance; very rarely if ever did he fail to point out where what he could not give might be obtained. His "snap judgement" on most any question was invariably valuable and he was ready and able to go deeper into the subject, if you desired it. He served on many and various committees and his work on all was always appreciated for keen sympathetic insight, for good common sense, for dignity of purpose, and for absolute fairness to all the issues.

Of Mr. Phinney's more immediate work as Superintendent of the Press others will tell as I cannot; but I want to give my personal testimony as to the complete and uniform satisfaction I have ever had in my every contact with him there. My association with the Press, my orders from the Press, my "jobs" in the various departments of the Press, throughout thirty-five years, have been many and various; Mr. Phinney has always seen to it personally that I got just what I wanted and at a price I was not only willing but glad to pay, and if I did not know just what I wanted he helped me to decide. Especially in the matter of printing in connection with my regular work and for special meetings and campaigns was he helpful in advice and in put-

ting the costs way below what could be considered a commercial possibility. In my present work I have rejoiced that my closest touch with the Mission was with Mr. Phinney as Superintendent of the Mission Press. I knew I had his confidence and good will in my doing of work he has for years very much wanted done, work of which he has felt the Press ought to be turning out much more—Biblical Helps for Burmans. I know of course others will endeavor to do all Mr. Phinney would do or ought to do; but I am sure they will not hold it against me that all the same I am exceedingly sorry that this closest touch with the Mission through the Press is not to continue to be through Mr. Phinney.

H. H. TILBE.

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The 15th of December, 1922, will long be remembered because it was the date that we received the sad news of Mr. Phinney's death. Mrs. Weeks who sent us the telegram remarked in her note: What will poor Mrs. Phinney do without him? We might ask what will the mission do without him. I remember when he first came to Burma the accounts at both the Press and at the Mission Treasury were much tangled. He soon put everything straight. In 1886 Mr. Phinney came up to K'Serdo hill and remained two weeks with me. A personal friendship was commenced then that has continued all these years, which has been a great pleasure to me. We form a good many acquaintances first and last but it does not take long to count the number that we can call, outside of the members of our own family our true friends. I am sure that we all can put Mr. Phinney as one of our real friends. He was a Christian gentleman. I never met any other man who took such great delight in doing something that would help the other fellow as Mr. Phinney did. As we have said he was a Christian gentleman in all the relations of life. Every one who came into his presence would be impressed by his Christian personality. This accounts in part for the great number of friends he had in Rangoon. I think that one of the great services he rendered for the Mission in Burma was the way he represented the mission before the Government officials and business men of Rangoon. He knew just what to do and say at all times and places. Many moons will pass before a man can be found to fill Mr. Phinney's place as the business head of the Burma mission. We have lost a great man in Mr. Phinney's death and we are going to feel it more and more as the years pass by.

A. V. B. CRUMB.

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The January number of THE NEWS will doubtless be a memorial number to Mr. Phinney, and I would like to contribute something to the testimonials given. How we will miss him! What a friend he was to every missionary!

As I was here in Burma before him, my acquaintance with him began on his arrival, but was comparatively slight till January or February 1894, when I went to Rochester to work with him on the photo-engraved edition of the Karen Bible. We worked together on that for about 18 months, and during that time I lived in his family and was there when his wife died. She had a long illness. We had a house-keeper who was very faithful and efficient. When the work on the small Bible was done, he came back to Burma and I soon followed. As since that time I have been in literary work, I have had a good deal to do with the Press, and to those who know him I do not need to say anything about his promptness, and kindness. What a storehouse of information he was, and how ready to do the best possible for any one who was in need of advice or help, and what a good adviser he was! Our sympathies go out to those who must take up the burden which he has laid down. He has earned his rest. But I think he would have been glad to work longer.

HARRIET N. EASTMAN.

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It was a great shock to us when the wireless operator on the S. S. Burma knocked on our cabin door and handed us the telegram announcing the death of Mr. Phinney. We first met Mr. Phinney in London in 1901, when Mrs. Snyder and myself were on our way to Burma for the first time, and he, with Mrs. Phinney, was on his way to America for furlough. The friendship then formed has grown and ripened with the years so that his loss to us is more like the loss of a father than a friend. I have never known a man with whom it was so great a pleasure to work. He was considerate and thoughtful to the last degree. He was strong, virile and forceful and at the same time he was the soul of gentleness, kindness and friendliness. To know Mr. Phinney was to receive a distinct impulse to higher ideals and better living. The humblest coolie in the employ of the Press was as sure of his kindly interest as were those of his own station in life. Mr. Phinney filled a large place in the business and community life of the city and province and one could always be sure that his voice and influence would always be on the side of right and justice. It can be said without disparagement to any of the long line of noble men and women who have served the Master under the Baptist Board in Burma, that none have been more sincerely mourned by all classes and creeds than has Mr. Phinney. A high government official was heard to remark on the day of Mr. Phinney's funeral that "he was the finest American who has ever lived in Burma." Not a day has passed since his death that has not brought to the office of the writer many tributes to Mr. Phinney's memory from all parts of Burma and India and from all sorts and conditions of men. One of the finest of these was the tribute paid by a well educated Burman

gentleman of the higher type. He called to see the writer and after the usual greetings had been exchanged he said; "I am so very sorry about Mr. Phinney, I——" and having gotten so far he could get no further but turned his face away and wept bitterly.

The Mission Press stands as a monument to Mr. Phinney's business sagacity and foresight, and while those who come after him in its conduct and management can never hope to fill the place he has occupied they will have ever present with them the inspiration of his life and the high ideals and standards which he set. "He being dead, yet speaketh."

J. L. SNYDER.

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Will the friends whom I have been unable to reach by other means allow me in this way to express my gratitude for their words of appreciation of the one who has passed on. The assurance that you were remembering me has brought comfort, for the answer has come in strength for my need and grace day by day.

My days are filled by present duties and until these are completed I am not making any plans. I am glad to be with the missionary friends until the way ahead is made clear.

JENNIE W. PHINNEY.

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### KAREN WOMEN BIBLE SCHOOL.

The Karen Women's Bible School will have its closing exercise in Brayton Memorial Hall, on Monday, January 29th, at 6 P. M. All are cordially invited.

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**Insein.** The Burman Woman's Bible School will hold its closing exercises on Saturday Jan. 27th, at 3-45 P. M. in the Chapel on Mingaladone Road.

As this is the 30th year since the founding of the school we are making a special effort to have old pupils present. Shall be glad to see our missionary friends also.

R. W. RANNEY.

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### THE BURMA SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Our first attempt in the way of publication has been issued from the Mission Press in the form of "A Teacher's Guide" for the Sunday School Lessons, in Burmese. It is a book of 147 pages and treats of the lessons in three divisions, namely; Adult, Intermediate and Primary. It has been sent to nearly every missionary in the country and I am writing to ask their co-operation in the distribution of this first issue. We desire to place our whole edition in the hands of Sunday School workers and if we can do so, we will feel that we can venture on further editions. We have promised a Sgaw Karen edition for next quarter, contingent on the success of this and our ability to secure writers for it. Much interest is being shown in the venture but we will need the help of all friends of the Sunday School if we are to sell the whole edition. In conversation with workers and in conferences

at associations, the need of such a volume has been stressed by many people at many times and while projected some six or seven years ago, we have just been able to get it out.

May I call attention to our request for contributions which we sent out in November to all the stations in Burma? We have had response from quite a few but many who have been regular contributors have not been heard from and we feel that it must be an oversight. In order to secure help from America, we will have to raise a goodly sum in Burma and so have asked all friends of the Sunday School to contribute.

PAUL R. HACKETT,  
General Secretary.

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### BAPTIST ORPHANAGE.

We need money. Our Christians ought to respond to this cause. Several children have accepted Christ since the annual report was given. Mrs. Halliday says that clothing would be very acceptable. Please send the clothing to Mrs. Halliday.

Total income to Jan. 1, 1923 Rs. 3,439 13 2  
" expense " " " 3,505 2 5  
Bal. deficit " 65 5 3

The monthly expense is Rs. 876.

C. L. KLEIN.

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I have been instructed by the Reference Committee to publish in the News the following notification for the information and guidance of our missionaries. While this information does not exempt from all taxes it does exempt from some and enables us to make a considerable saving to Mission funds.

W. E. WIATT.

### NOTIFICATION.

Dated Rangoon, the 20th, January 1921.

No. 20.—In exercises of the power conferred by section 53, sub-section (1) of the Burma Municipal Act, 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to exempt from taxes under section 46 sub-section (1), division A, clauses (a) to (d) inclusive, all schools, under either public or private management which are recognized by the Education Department and are situated within the limits of a municipality other than Rangoon or of a notified area, in respects of buildings certified annually by the Inspector of schools concerned to be used bona fide for educational purposes:

Provided that hostels for students shall be considered to be educational buildings, and buildings attached to a School which are used for residential purposes, such as the residence of a head master or assistant masters, shall not be considered to be educational buildings.

The following Notifications, so far as they relate to the exemption from taxes imposed under the act institution included within the scope of this notification, are hereby superseded:

\* \* \* \*

By Order,  
W. B. BRANDER,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Burma.